resources including the areas of flood mitigation, control and management on the rivers flowing through Bihar towards India from Nepal. As a long term solution to the flood control on rivers Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati in Bihar, construction of three high dams is under consideration with Nepal and field investigations are in progress.

As per the understanding reached between the two countries, a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up at Birat Nagar (Nepal) in August, 2004 for carrying out field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report for the Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. The studies for Storage Dam on river Kamala and Bagmati Multipurpose Project are also being carried out by above JPO.

After taking over by new Government in Nepal, process of holding bilateral talks on Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, inundation problems in the adjoining border areas etc., have been started through Embassy of India in Kathmandu and the dates of bilateral talks are being finalized.

Charging farmers for using ground water

2250. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to charge the farmers for using the water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this may increase the suicides of farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Restoration of old canal system in Bihar

2251. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether canal irrigation system in Bihar has collapsed due to silting and their improper upkeep

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to restore the old canal system for better facilities for irrigation as well as flood control; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to canalize the rivers of Bihar and make the access of the water of different rivers like Bhagmati, Ghandak, Kosi, etc. to uplift irrigation and water resources in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Project Evaluation Studies of two projects (Eastern Kosi Canal Project & Kohira Reservoir Project) in Bihar have carried out by Central Water Commission in the past. It is seen from the studies that the Canal systems of these projects have deteriorated due to silting and lack of maintenance, which is generally due to insufficient funds provided under O & M of the projects.

Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed and maintained by the State Government as per their own requirements and priority of works from their own resources. For modernisation/restoration of the existing canal system Government of Bihar has taken up one ERM Project (Sone Modernisation) which spilled over from Ninth Plan and four new projects during Tenth Plan. Also, Planning Commission has sanctioned Rs. 294/- crore during March, 2004 for restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal Project under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana under Central funding.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in August 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan Rivers Development. National Water-Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of inter basin water transfer proposals. After various studies, NWDA has identified 14 links for preparation of feasibility reports of Himalayan Component. Out of these, following six proposals of interlinking of rivers pertain to the State of Bihar:—

1. Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (MSTG) link project
2. Kosi-Mechi link project
3. Kosi-Ghagara link project

4. Chunar-Some barrage link project

5. Sone Dam-Southern Tributaries of Ganga link project

6. Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link project (alternate to MSTG)

These proposals mainly envisage irrigation power generation, domestic and industrial water supply and incidental flood management benefits to the State of Bihar.

Also, for exploring feasibility of linking sub-basins of rivers in the State of Bihar, Government of Bihar has sent following intra-State link proposals for preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports by NWDA:-

(i) Kohra-Chandravat,

(ii) Burhi Gandak-None-Baya-Ganga,

(iii) Bagmati-Burhi Gandak through Belwabhar.

(iv) Kosi-Ganga,

(v) Kosi-Mechi (Indian portion) and

(vi) Karmanasha-Suara links in Bihar.

Construction of dams over Yamuna river

2252. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether central Government called a high level meeting consisting of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Haryana and the national Capital Region Territory for construction of three dams in the upper reaches of the Yamuna river to meet the persistent water and power problems the Capital is facing over the past few years;

(b) whether the Steering Committee comprising scretaries to the Ministries of power, Water Resources and Environment and forests were constituted for this purpose; and

(c) whether a road map of the construction of these Dams have been prepared and the steps taken to implement them?